



Human Rights Council, 58th session

Interactive Dialogue on the Independent Expert on Foreign Debt

10 March 2025

CIEL welcomes the Independent Expert's report Understanding the landscape of climate finance, debt, tax and illicit financial flows, and human rights.

Human rights obligations are integral to effective and just climate finance for mitigation, adaptation, and loss and damage. Yet, existing climate finance mechanisms are not rooted in human rights standards and principles. States with a high cumulative responsibility for the climate crisis also continue to evade their obligation to provide finance.

Current climate finance is too low, debt-creating, and disproportionately focused on mitigation. Only a small percentage of funding goes directly to communities and Indigenous Peoples. Mobilizing the private sector to close the finance gap is proving ineffective, as are false solutions such as carbon markets, which are not climate finance and come with a range of human rights concerns.

Under public international and human rights law, people harmed by the climate crisis have a right to remedy, including full reparation. Critically, such remedy and reparation can encompass debt justice.

A shift is needed away from voluntary and debt-inducing climate finance and towards real, human rights-based, and gender-responsive solutions at the scale of needs.

The upcoming advisory opinion on States' obligations on climate change and human rights mechanisms has an important role in elaborating on the interlinkages between human rights, climate reparations, and debt justice and proposing concrete ways forward.

Thank you.